

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 PRS-01 SS-14 NSC-05

NSCE-00 /027 W

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O 090635Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6498

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2621

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS USIA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ORTA, KS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MR. JAMES A. LINEN

REF: (A) STATE 071515, (B) STATE 078295, (C) SEOUL 2493

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING ARRANGE APPOINTMENT
FOR LINEN SINCE RECEIPT STATE 071515.

2. WE INITIALLY MADE REQUEST THROUGH MOFA AMERICJI
AFFAIRS FOLLOWED UP BY REQUEST FROM PAO TO VICE MINISTER
CULTURE AND INFORMATION FOR HIS MINISTER'S ASSISTANCE.
WHEN NO REPLY RECEIVED, FOLLOWED UP WITH SECOND APPROACH
TO MOFA AND VICE MINISTER ON APRIL 2 AS STATED SEOUL -2493.
VICE MINISTER'S RESPONSE WAS THAT HE WAS WORKING ON
IT BUT PROSPECTS DID NOT LOOK GOOD. IN RELAYING THIS
TO ENGLETON, PAO SUGGESTED ENGLETON REFRAIN FROM
TELLING LINEN'S OFFICE VISIT WAS DEFINITELY IMPOSSIBLE
SINCE THESE THINGS USUALLY TURNED OUT TO BE CLIFFHANGERS
AND DESPITE CURRENT TENSION BETWEEN ROKG AND US PRESS
THERE STILL MIGHT BE A SLIM CHANCE OF MAKING APPOINTMENT.

3. APRIL 7 MOFA FINALLY INFORMED PAO APPOINTMENT
NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE PRESIDENT EXTREMELY BUSY AND
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PLANNED TRIP TO CHINHAE DURING PERIOD LINEN VISIT.

OFFERED LINEN CALL ON VICE MINISTER MOFA WHO WOULD BE ACTING FONMIN IN FOMIN'S ABSENCE. IN RESPONSE CALL FROM ENGLETON, PAO TOLD ENGLETON PRESIDENTIAL CALL APPEARED IMPOSSIBLE BUT AVOIDED MENTIONING PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL PLANS FOR SECURITY REASONS. TOLD ENGLETON VISIT WITH VICE FONMIN POSSIBLE BUT ENGLETON NOT INTERESTED. PAO SAID HE WISHED MAKE ONE MORE TRY THROUGH VICE MINISTER MCUI. AT REQUEST AMBASSADOR AND PAO, VICE MINISTER AGREED APPROACH BLUE HOUSE.

4. ENGLETON CALLED PAO AGAIN APRIL 8 SAYING HE MUST INFORM LINEN'S OFFICE IN NEW YORK WHETHER VISIT POSSIBLE SO LINEN COULD REARRANGE TRAVEL PLANS SCRUBBING SEOUL STOP. PAO ADVISED ENGLETON THAT CALL ON PRESIDENT IMPOSSIBLE ON DATES LINEN WISHED TO BE IN SEOUL. ENGLETON STATED HE WOULD ADVISE LINEN TO DROP SEOUL STOP FROM ITINERARY.

5. APRIL 9, VICE MINISTER MCUI STATED HE HAD APPROACHED BLUE HOUSE AT AMBASSADOR'S AND PAO'S REQUEST BUT HAD TO REPORT VISIT IMPOSSIBLE.

6. WITH EXCEPTION STATE 078295, ANSWERED PER REF C, EMBASSY HAS HAD NO REQUEST FROM DEPARTMENT TO KEEP IT INFORMED OF PROGRESS ON ARRANGING LINEN VISIT. FACT THAT PAO AND ENGLETON IN CONSTANT CONTACT ON VISIT POSSIBILITIES APPEARED SUFFICIENT. REGRET DEPARTMENT PLACED IN EMBARRASSING POSITION BECAUSE OF RECENT CALLS FROM LINEN'S OFFICE, BUT WOULD SUGGEST THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT LINEN'S OFFICE INTENDED AS MEANS OF PRESSURING BOTH DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY FOR APPOINTMENT. ENGLETON CLEARLY TRYING GET HIMSELF OFF THE HOOK FOR FAILURE TO DELIVER ON PARK APPOINTMENT. ENGLETON AT ALL TIMES FULLY AWARE OF STATE OF PLAY HERE AND POSSESSED MEANS KEEP LINEN INFORMED. CALLS TO DEPARTMENT CLEARLY UNNECESSARY.

7. FYI: WE INCLINED ACCEPT MOFA, MCUI AND BLUE HOUSE REASONS FOR INABILITY PRESIDENT PAK MEET WITH LINEN. BEYOND FACT OF CHINHAЕ TRIP, IT DISTINCTLY POSSIBLE THAT PRESIDENT'S ADVISERS MAY HAVE DECIDED NOW NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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TIME FOR PRESIDENT TO SEE ANYONE FROM AMERICAN PRESS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, PRESIDENT IS OUTRAGED BY WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL AND OTHER AMERICAN PRESS TREATMENT OF MYONGDONG INCIDENT. IT DISTINCTLY POSSIBLE ADVISERS DID NOT WISH GENERAL OUTCRY AGAINST US PRESS HERE TO BE RAISED ANOTHER NOTCH BY PROVIDING SETTING IN WHICH PRESIDENT COULD SOUND OFF TO A WELL-KNOWN AND SENIOR FIGURE IN AMERICAN JOURNALISM END FYI.

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